



Yes! To Affordable Groceries Launches Signature Drive for November Ballot Initiative
Initiative Measure 1634 Would Prohibit New Local Taxes on Groceries

Olympia, Washington April 30, 2018 – A coalition of farmers, neighborhood businesses, workers, citizens and community organizations today launched a statewide signature gathering drive to certify a ballot initiative that would keep groceries affordable and free of new taxes. [Yes! To Affordable Groceries](#), is waging this effort in every corner of the state with the goal of gathering the required 259,622 signatures to certify Measure 1634 for the November ballot.

“I’m proud to be part of a coalition of farmers, workers and small business owners who are taking a stand for affordability and against new taxes on groceries. It’s already hard enough for stores, shops and restaurants to make payroll, but if you add taxes on essentials like food and everyday beverages, sales will suffer and jobs will be lost,” said AJ Handa, an Everett, Wash. neighborhood business owner.

The Yes! To Affordable Groceries coalition is advancing this campaign in the interest of community businesses, workers and the working families who are disproportionately impacted by local tax measures, as well as low and middle-income families who are burdened by an unfair tax structure. The State of Washington has been [recognized as having the most burdensome tax structure for lower-income families in the country](#) and taxes on food and beverages would only make things worse for them.

Coalition members have raised concerns over the spread of taxes that make prices skyrocket on everyday foods and beverages because excessive taxes on common grocery items hurt families already struggling to make ends meet. The costly and unpopular Seattle beverage tax remains in effect and pro-tax advocates are now suggesting additional taxes on other grocery cart staples like meat and dairy.

“We fear that Seattle’s excessive beverage tax is just the beginning of politicians’ attempts to raise taxes on meat, produce, dairy, and many essential everyday food items. We are taxed enough. There are better ways to fund budget priorities than a tax that raises prices on working

families, costs jobs and hurts neighborhood businesses, and this initiative will prohibit these measures from impacting those who are least able to afford it,” said Prem Singh, owner of convenience stores in Seattle and Kent, Wash.

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Background

Yes! To Affordable Groceries is a group of citizens, businesses and community organizations actively opposing new taxes on everyday grocery items, such as meats, dairy and beverages. We’re taking a stand to bring fairness to our tax structure, to protect jobs and neighborhood businesses and to prevent excessive taxation on what we eat and drink. Join us to say YES to keeping groceries affordable.

For all press inquiries, please contact: media@yestoaffordablegroceries.com.

Paid for by Yes! to Affordable Groceries, supported by the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, Washington Farm Bureau, Washington Food Industry Association, Korean-American Grocer’s Association of Washington, and sponsored by the American Beverage Association. Top 5 contributors: Members’ funds for this advertisement from The Coca-Cola Company; PepsiCo, Inc.; Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. and Red Bull North America. PO Box 50705, Bellevue, Washington, 98015.